

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3461

ANSWERED ON:17.08.2005

PERFORMANCE OF PRIVATE COMPANIES IN TELECOM SECTOR

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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the private companies are far ahead of the BSNL and MTNL in respect of Telecommunication facilities;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to bring the public sector agencies in the forefront; and
- (d) the success achieved by the Government so far in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) No, Sir. Total subscriber base of the PSU operators as on 31.7.2005 was 53.24 million as compared to 53.76 million subscriber base of the private telecom operators.

(b) & (c) In the highly competitive telecom sector, both public and private companies strive for capturing higher customer base. The Government PSUs viz. MTNL and BSNL are taking several measures towards becoming more competitive by way of introduction of new services, modernization and upgrading the existing network, offering competitive tariffs and improving customer care etc. Furthermore, the Government has also enhanced powers of the PSUs recently for making them more autonomous.

(d) Since start of cellular mobile service by BSNL in October 2002, its subscriber base reached 11.16 million as on 31.7.2005. In MTNL, the number of cellular mobile subscriber has reached 1.33 million as on 31.7.2005.